

Appln. Serial No. 10/810,340
Amendment Dated December 16, 2005
Reply to Office Action Mailed October 17, 2005

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated October 17, 2005, claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 over EP 1 102 405 (D1).

Applicant has added subject matter into independent claims 1 and 13 that the Examiner has stated is not in EP 1 102 406 (D1). See 10/17/2005 Office Action at 6. Therefore, it is believed that the present claims are allowable over D1.

D1 describes a transducer interface arrangement including sensor means for measuring a parameter, an analog-to-digital converter and a selectable resistor string. The analog-to-digital converter comprises a sigma-delta modulator including a cascade connection of a first switched-capacitor module, a first differential amplifier, a second switched-capacitor module and a second differential amplifier, and further includes a third switched-capacitor module with an input at which a reference voltage is applied and with an output connected to an input of the first switched-capacitor module as well as a fourth switched-capacitor module with an input at which said reference voltage is applied and with an output connected to an input of the second differential amplifier (Col. 1 [0001]).

The switched-capacitor modules are mainly used to filter possible differences between an analog ground voltage to which the sensor refers and the ground reference voltage to which the above sigma-delta modulator refers (Col. 2 [0010]).

According to D1, the fifth switched-capacitor module is identical to the first switched-capacitor module. By duplicating the first switched-capacitor module, that is an input circuitry of the converter, into the fifth switched-capacitor module, an extra input to the converter is provided. A compensation signal for the offset voltage to be eliminated, i.e. the inverse of the offset signal, may then be applied to the other circuitry of the A/D converter via the fifth switched-capacitor module (Col. 2 [0011]-[0012]).

The device described in D1 needs a calibration cycle once, in order to determine the inverse of the offset voltage.

The device according to D1, however, does not comprise an input element, a reference element and a parasitic element being coupled in a same current or voltage path.

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Allowance of claims 1 and 13 is therefore respectfully requested. Dependent claims, including new claim 19, are allowable for at least the same reasons as corresponding independent claims. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees and/or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-1504 (BGC.0003US).

Respectfully submitted,

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